

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 1, 2005. Submitted herewith is a one-month extension of time. In the Office Action, claims 1-18 and 20-41 were rejected and claims 19 and 42-45 were objected to, but contain allowable subject matter. With this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 13, 15, 20, 21, 23, 28, 30 and 31 are amended, claims 14, 16-19 are canceled and claims 46-49 are added. All remaining claims are unchanged. It is respectfully submitted that more claims have been canceled than claims have been added. Therefore, no extra claim fee is required.

FIG. 1 was objected to. The objectionable figure has been replaced with a replacement sheet. It is believed that the objection can be withdrawn. In addition, Applicant submits formal drawings for FIGS. 2-11.

Claims 10 and 15 were objected to as having informalities. Claims 10 and 15 have been amended. It is believed that the objection can be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, 13-18, 20-21, 24-25, 27, 31, 33, 35 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inagaki et al. (US 5,532,724). It is respectfully submitted that Inagaki et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended independent claims 1 and 31.

Specifically, Inagaki et al. fails to show "laminating the ink-receptive material to a surface of the card member, wherein the ink-receptive coating completely covers the surface of the card member" or "a laminating section configured to laminate the ink-receptive material to a surface of a card member, wherein the ink-receptive coating completely covers the surface of the card member." Rather, Inagaki et al. teaches that only a portion of the image transfer layer that contains the ink layer is transferred to the card. As illustrated in FIG. 22 of Inagaki et al., any remaining image transfer layer that does not contain the ink layer is not laminated to the card and remains bonded to the backing layer. Thus, the surface of card 112 is not completely covered with an image transfer layer 101a.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 31 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-3, 6-7, 9, 13, 33, 35, 40 and new claim 46 are also in condition for allowance as depending on allowable base claims. However, when read in their entireties, the dependent claims are also not shown by Inagaki et al. For example, claim 13 has been amended to include “printing an image on an ink-receptive coating using a jetted ink.” This feature can be found in the Specification on page 13, line 29 through page 14, line 2. Rather, Inagaki et al. teaches “transferring ink from a transfer ribbon using a thermal head”. See the Abstract of Inagaki et al. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate features of claims 18 and 19, which were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 16-19 have been canceled. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 20-21, 24-25 and 27 are also in condition for allowance as depending on an allowable base claim.

Claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (JP 09300675). It is respectfully submitted that Ando et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of independent claim 31.

Although the Examiner indicated the existence of a “card substrate”, after review of the Ando et al. reference, Applicant is unable to find a card member. Rather, Ando et al. includes an image sheet 12 and a releasing sheet 13 in which an image layer 17 of a transfer medium 16 is transferred to by a heating roller 9. Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to particularly point and distinctly show such a “card substrate”.

As a result, Ando et al. fails to show “a laminating section configured to laminate the ink-receptive material to a surface of a card member, wherein the ink-receptive coating is bonded to and completely covers the surface of the card member.” It is respectfully submitted that claim 31 is condition for allowance. Dependent claims 32-33 are in condition for allowance as depending on an allowable base claim.

Claims 1, 4-5, 15 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vaidya et al. (US 2002/0012773). It is respectfully submitted that Vaidya et al. fails to teach or

suggest all of the claim elements of amended independent claim 1. The features of dependent claim 14 are incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, claim 14 is canceled.

Vaidya et al. fails to show “removing the backing layer from the ink-receptive coating”. Rather, in FIGS. 1A, 1B and 2A of Vaidya et al., the transferable skin layer is only partially transferred to a substrate. Thus, Vaidya et al. does not teach that the backing layer is removed from the ink receptive coating.

Vaidya et al. also fails to show “providing an ink-receptive material having a backing layer and an ink-receptive coating in contact with a surface of the backing layer”. Although FIGS. 2B and 2C of Vaidya et al. illustrate that “substantially all of the transferable skin” is transferred to the substrate, Vaidya et al. does not teach or suggest that “an ink-receptive coating in contact with a surface of the backing layer”. Rather, Vaidya et al. in FIGS. 2B and 2C of Vaidya et al. shows the use of an intermediate layer 7 to perform the “substantially all” transfer. See page 4, paragraphs 56 and 57.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 4-5 are also in condition for allowance as depending on an allowable base claim.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate features of claims 18 and 19, which were considered allowable subject matter. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claim 22 is also in condition for allowance as depending on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Claim Rejections

Applicant acknowledges rejections of claims 8, 10-12, 26, 28-30, 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of various combinations of Inagacki et al. and Lyszcza (US 4,897,533), Conner et al. (US 2004/0135241) or Vaidya et al. In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections can be withdrawn since each rejected claim depends from an allowable base claim.

Furthermore, Applicant acknowledges rejections of claims 31, 33-34, 37, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combination of Hashiba et al. (JP2002307874) and Vaidya et al. In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection can be withdrawn since each claim depends from an allowable base claim.

Still further, Applicant acknowledges rejections of claims 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Ando et al. In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection can be withdrawn since each claim depends from an allowable base claim.

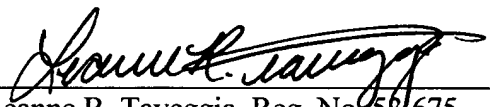
New claim 46 depends on claim 1 and includes "printing on the ink-receptive coating before laminating the ink-receptive material to a surface of the card member". This claim was previously included in claim 15. Since claim 1 is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 46 is also in condition for allowance. New claims 47-49 depend on claim 15 and include features that have been included in claim 1. Since claim 15 is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 47-49 are also in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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